

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph at the bottom of page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Yet another embodiment is a kit for determining a ratio of C1,2C neoepitope to C 2C epitope in a biological sample, said kit comprising:

(a) a monoclonal antibody which binds to said C2C epitope having the following first peptide sequence

C-G-G-E-G-P-P(OH)-G-P-Q-G (COL2-3/4C<sub>long mono</sub> peptide) (SEQ ID NO:1) ;

(b) a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody which binds to said C1, 2C neoepitope having the following second peptide sequence

C-G-P-P(OH)-G-P-Q-G (COL2-3/4C<sub>short</sub> peptide) (SEQ ID NO:2) ;

(c) two solid supports for binding each of said first and second peptides;

(d) a first labelled antibody conjugated to a first enzyme to measure the binding of said monoclonal antibody to said first peptide containing the C2C neoepitope; and

(e) a second labelled antibody conjugated to a second enzyme to measure the binding of said polyclonal or monoclonal antibody to said second peptide containing the C1, 2C neoepitope.

Please replace the paragraph at the top of page 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Two serum biomarkers have been developed for the measurement of the cleavage by collagenase of cartilage type II collagen: the C2C epitope, C-G-G-E-G-P-P(OH)-G-P-Q-G (COL2-3/4C<sub>long mono</sub> peptide) (SEQ ID NO:1), specific for type II collagen (see United States patent No. 6,132,976, filed January 22, 1998, the entire contents of which are incorporated

herein by reference in their entirety) and the C1, 2C epitope, C-G-P-P(OH)-G-P-Q-G (COL2-3/4C<sub>short</sub> peptide) (SEQ ID NO:2), which measures mainly type II but also type I collagen cleavage (see Billingham, R.C. *et al.*, *J. Clin. Invest.* **99**:1535-1545 (1997)). They can be used together or as separate assays to detect type II collagen degradation. Samples may be removed with a syringe from peripheral blood and allowed to clot to produce serum for analysis or prevented from clotting, to permit analysis of plasma, by an anti-coagulant such as heparin or ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid.